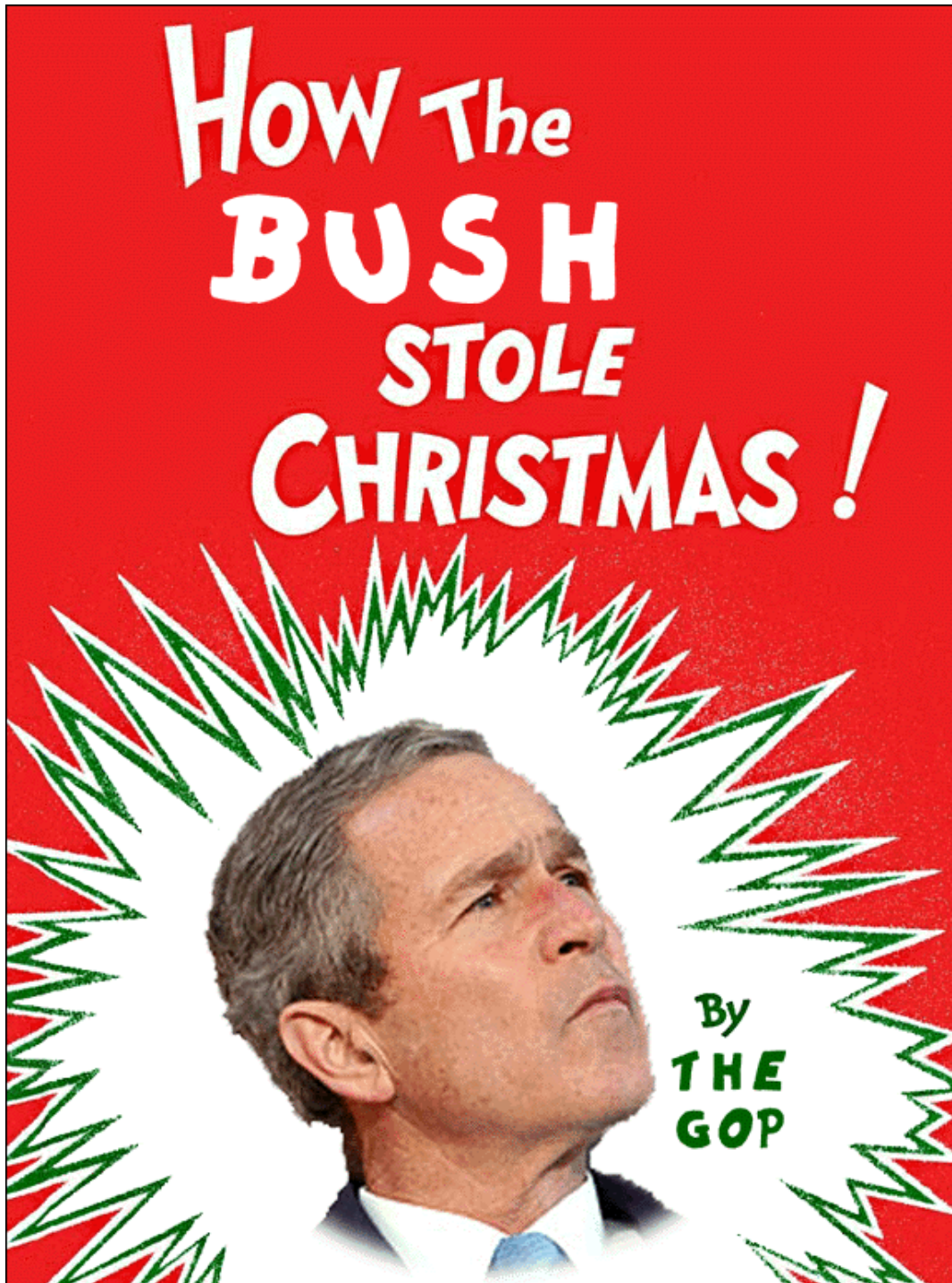


“Compassionate Conservatism” vs. the GOP Record



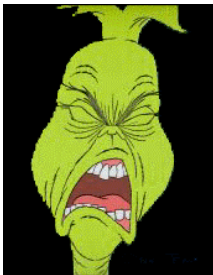
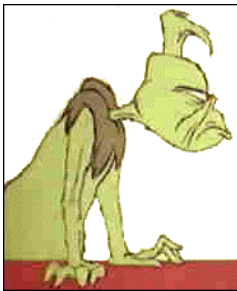






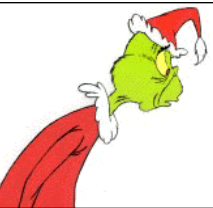
*Tis the season for compassion, we're told quite a lot
But do those in the White House have compassion? Seems not
They have pictures of reading with children, they do
But when it comes to families and children they think we can all live on a shoe
Oh why do the Bushies think it's best to cut off unemployment during the Christmas season?
No one quite knows the reason
It could be their heads aren't screwed on just right
Or it could be Karl Rove in the basement at night
But we think the most likely reason of all is that their hearts – and budgets – are two sizes too small*

HOW THE BUSH STOLE CHRISTMAS

com·pas·sion: Deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.

President Bush and the Republican leadership have touted themselves as “compassionate conservatives.” But a Holiday Season comparison between their rhetoric and their actions shows that they have a different definition of “compassion” than most Americans:

“Compassionate Conservative” Priority	Rhetoric	Action
The Unemployed	<p>“Today's unemployment numbers are troubling, and they underscore that we must act to ensure America's economic security.” – Bush [12/7/01]</p>	 <p>In late November, the House GOP, with Bush's backing, rejected Democratic efforts to take up a bill to extend unemployment insurance, meaning almost <u>a million people will be cut off during Christmas.</u></p>
Education	<p>“It's time to come together...so that we can truthfully say in America, “No child will be left behind -- not one single child...Our schools will have greater resources to help meet goals...We're going to spend more money, more resources....We're going to spend more on our schools.” - Bush [1/23/01 and 1/8/02]</p>	 <p>The President's budget proposes \$22.2 billion for the No Child Left Behind Act - <u>24% less than authorized</u> and a \$90 million <u>cut</u> below last year. Specifically, he proposed cutting 82% of the proposed growth of Title I funding for low-income schools. His budget also proposes to freeze the homeless education program, meaning about <u>8000 fewer homeless children will receive help next year</u> after accounting for inflation. Finally, Bush's budget freezes funding for after school programs. With inflation, that means <u>50,000 children would be eliminated</u> from participation in after school programs.</p>
Housing/ Homeownership	<p>“We've also got to understand in this land of plenty there are pockets of hopelessness and despair... The problem is we have a homeownership gap in America. That ownership gap signals that something might be wrong in the land of plenty, and we need to do something about it. I'm going to do my part by setting the goal, by reminding people of the goal, by heralding the goal, and by calling people into action.” - Bush event [6/18/02]</p>	 <p>The Bush budget proposes <u>eliminating</u> various low-income housing programs in HUD. These include the Empowerment Zone Program, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Program. Additionally, Bush proposes <u>cutting \$400 million (15%)</u> from the public housing capital fund.</p>
Child Care	<p>“The budget I submitted will continue to maintain historically high levels of child care funding.” – Bush [2/26/02]</p>	 <p>The Bush budget actually proposes to freeze the Child Care and Development Block Grant – the government's major fund to assist communities in meeting child care needs of families. Even worse, the President would lock in this freeze until 2007. Taking into account inflation, <u>the Bush budget could lead to as many as 33,000 children being dropped from child care programs in 2003 alone.</u></p>

“Compassionate Conservative” Priority	Rhetoric	Action
Heating Assistance	<p>“First and foremost, we have to fully fund LIHEAP, which is a way to help low income people pay for high fuel bills.” Bush [10/03/00]</p>	 <p>The Bush budget would freeze LIHEAP funding, falling \$600 million short of “fully funding LIHEAP” as he promised on the campaign. This cut would come despite the fact that during the last winter home heating oil and natural gas prices doubled. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, this cut would mean <u>“almost 438,000 families would be cut from LIHEAP”</u> [release, 11/21/02]. Over half of LIHEAP recipients earn less than \$10,000 per year.</p>
The Elderly	<p>“[Senior nutrition programs are] one of our most vital, community-based programs for seniors...For many elderly, this program has made a tremendous impact on their quality of life.” – Bush [5/2/02]</p>	 <p>The Bush budget proposes an overall cut of \$7 million to the Administration on Aging. Specifically, Bush would freeze the Congregate Nutrition Program, which assists local soup kitchens and meals on wheels programs. With inflation, this proposal would mean <u>36,000 seniors would be cut from meals on wheels and congregate meals programs.</u> Currently, 139,000 seniors are already on waiting lists for home-meal programs.</p>
National Service	<p>“I ask all Americans to consider how you can give someone in need a reason to be thankful in this holiday season and throughout the year. Volunteering your time at a soup kitchen, teaching a child to read, visiting a patient in the hospital or taking a meal to an elderly neighbor or a shut-in are all simple acts of compassion that can brighten someone's life.” - Bush [11/30/02]</p>	 <p>The House GOP reported the VA-HUD Appropriations Bill out of committee that <u>zero funds the entire Corporation for National Service.</u></p>
Parents and Children	<p>“As for the Family and Medical Leave Act, I think that has brought about a great deal of benefits for working families that need flexibility.” – Bush Labor Secretary Elaine Chao [1/24/01]</p>	 <p>Bush <u>repealed the law that “lets states provide unemployment pay to workers who take unpaid time off to care for a newborn child”</u> [AP, 12/3/02]. “The executive action will effectively shut down legislative efforts in as many as 16 states to make unemployment compensation money available to working parents who have taken time off to care for a newborn or adopted child.” [NY Times, 12/4/02]</p>
Law Enforcement Workers	<p>“The first responders of America, all across America, must have the resources necessary to respond to emergencies and save lives.” - Bush [3/27/02]</p>	 <p>On the same day Bush approved bonuses for his political cronies, he <u>“temporarily suspended awarding grants to aid first responders to terrorist attacks”</u> [LA Times, 12/3/02]. This delay comes just after Bush rejected a COLA for the federal workforce, where one of the fastest growing employment sectors is homeland security and law enforcement workers.</p>